

MAR 13 2015

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A BULLYING  
PREVENTION TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, all students have the right to fully participate  
2 in the educational process free from bullying, including  
3 cyberbullying; and  
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5 WHEREAS, a safe and civil school environment is necessary  
6 for students to learn and meet high academic standards; and  
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8 WHEREAS, bullying, including cyberbullying, like other  
9 disruptive or violent behaviors, inhibit students' ability to  
10 learn and schools' ability to educate students in a safe  
11 environment; and  
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13 WHEREAS, keeping students and youth safe requires schools  
14 and youth-serving agencies in the State to establish and  
15 maintain clear and consistent policies and procedures to address  
16 bullying; and  
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18 WHEREAS, because students learn by example, school  
19 administrators, faculty, staff, parents, guardians, and  
20 volunteers should be expected to demonstrate appropriate  
21 behavior, treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to  
22 tolerate bullying and harassment; and  
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24 WHEREAS, protecting youth in Hawaii would be furthered by  
25 requiring all youth-serving agencies, public schools, charter  
26 schools, and educational institutions that receive state funding  
27 to establish, maintain, monitor, and enforce policies and  
28 procedures related to all forms of bullying, including  
29 cyberbullying; now, therefore,  
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the



House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is requested to convene a bullying prevention task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to consist of at least eleven members, to be selected by the Governor, from a variety of educational institutions and community agencies that will be affected by the implementation of anti-bullying policies, including:

- (1) Teachers;
- (2) Administrators from educational institutions and agencies;
- (3) School mental health professionals;
- (4) Parents and legal guardians;
- (5) Youth;
- (6) Direct service providers;
- (7) Clergy; and
- (8) Youth advocates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to create a model anti-bullying policy for use by educational institutions, youth-serving agencies, and grantees that provide services, activities, or privileges to youth on behalf of the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the model anti-bullying policy include:

- (1) A definition of bullying, including cyberbullying;
- (2) A statement prohibiting bullying;
- (3) A statement that the policy applies to participation in functions sponsored by the agency, educational institution, or grantee;



- (4) A code of conduct;
- (5) A list of consequences, including alternative discipline approaches, that may result from an identified incident of bullying which are designed to correct the bullying behavior, prevent another occurrence or retaliation, protect the victim, and be flexible so that the consequences can be uniquely applied to the individual incident and varied in method and severity;
- (6) A procedure for reporting bullying or retaliation for reporting an act of bullying, including a procedure for anonymous reports of bullying, provided that no formal response be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report;
- (7) A procedure for prompt investigation of reports of violations of an anti-bullying policy and of complaints of bullying or retaliation, including the name and contact information of the person responsible for investigating reports;
- (8) A procedure of prompt notification of the parents or guardians of the student or youth alleged to have committed an act of bullying and the parents or guardians of the student or youth targeted by the alleged act, provided that if the administrator believes that contacting the parent or guardian would endanger the health or well-being of a student, they may delay such contact as appropriate;
- (9) An appeal process for a party who is not satisfied with the outcome of the initial investigation; and
- (10) A statement that prohibits retaliation against any person who reports or witnesses incidents of bullying; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force serve without compensation; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit an initial report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016, and a final report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on December 31, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY:

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